

Nearby Attractions

- Customs House Museum, 3.5 miles
- Riverwalk, 4.0 miles

Other Nearby State Parks

- Montgomery Bell State Park, 40 miles
- Port Royal State Park, 12 miles

Annual Events

- Friends of Dunbar Cave Spring Fling Nature programs, April or May
- Halloween Hysteria, the weekend before Halloween

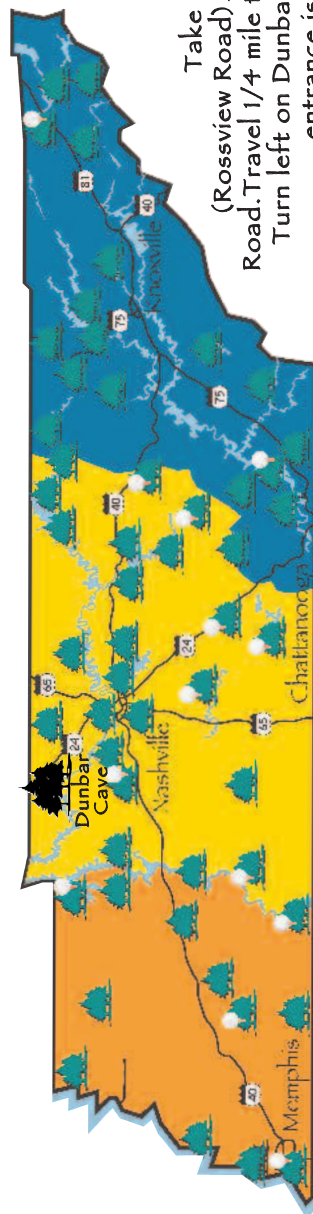


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Tour Buses
Tour buses and motor coaches are welcome, but please contact the park a month in advance.

Take Interstate 24 to Exit 8 (Rossvie Road). Turn left on Rossvie Road. Travel 1/4 mile to Dunbar Cave Road. Turn left on Dunbar Cave Road. The park entrance is 2.5 miles on the right.

Hours of Operation:
8:00 a.m. until sunset.

Visitor Center, open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For Further Information Contact:

Dunbar Cave State Natural Area / 401 Old Dunbar Cave Road / Clarksville, TN 37043

Phone (931) 648-5526

Or Contact:

Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor / Nashville, TN 37243

Phone (888) 867-2757 / www.tnstateparks.com



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TENNESSEE STATE PARKS DUNBAR CAVE STATE NATURAL AREA





Dunbar Cave State Natural Area

has been a State Park since 1973. The cave and its surrounding 110 acres have considerable scenic, natural and historical significance. The entrance offered shelter to prehistoric Native Americans as far back as 10,000 years. This cave is the only site in the United States where the public can see native American Mississippian cave art dating from approximately 1350 A.D. Religious symbols including circles, stars and a supernatural male warrior figure were drawn and carved on the walls of the cave and can be seen on the regular tour.

European-American settlement began in the late 1770's, with Thomas Dunbar being an early resident. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Dunbar was a popular mineral springs resort. In the 1930s it was associated with big band music and dances, with performances by such greats as Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman. In 1948, country music star Roy Acuff purchased the property and broadcast a live country music radio show from the area.

The cave contains over 8 miles of mapped passageway and is the site of scientific investigation as well as guided tours. Rare animals being studied include the blind, unpigmented cave fish and crayfish, salamanders, and bats. Above ground, oak-hickory forests and a small lake support numerous wildflowers, songbirds and waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians, and mammals ranging from whitetail deer to raccoon and grey fox.

Hiking

Over 3 miles of hiking trails range from the easy 2/3 mile Lake Trail, the moderate 1 mile Short Loop, to the strenuous 2 mile Recovery Trail, which has several steep hills. All trails take you past the cave entrance and around the lake. The Short Loop and Recovery Trails take you into the forest and over successional fields.

Museum

A small natural history museum is located in the Visitor Center. It is open between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. as staffing permits. Exhibits on mammals, birds, rocks, nests, trees and seeds are included.

Picnic Pavilions and Playgrounds

Seven picnic tables without grills are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Restrooms are in the nearby Visitor Center, open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily (closed some holidays).

Fishing

Fishing is available year-round in Swan Lake. Favorite catches are bluegill, carp, bass and catfish. A state fishing license is required.

Planned Programs

The park offers scheduled nature programs year-round for all ages, on many nature topics including birds, wildflowers, bats, geology, and more.

Cave hikes are given to organized groups (ages three and up) by appointment. Hikes are conducted for the general public almost daily from June – August and on weekends in spring and fall. The cave is closed December through February. Hikes are by flashlight (one per person required, not provided). Walkways are relatively flat but muddy in places. Some stooping and climbing of steps is necessary. Group size is limited and reservations are strongly recommended. Call the Visitor Center for a schedule, prices or other information.

Dunbar Cave State Natural Area

